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blood corpucles. The experiments so far show that the venom is very deadly for white mice.

4. *Beri-beri.*—The properties of a bacillus isolated from beri-beri patients by Prof. Axel Holst, of Christiania, were studied experimentally on brown monkeys. In accordance with Holst's view that the disease is conveyed mainly or entirely by food, brown monkeys were fed on material contaminated with the above bacillus, but with no positive results.

5. *Lathyriasis.*—In the central districts of India, Jaora grain is supposed to cause a specific paralysis in man. Accordingly experiments were made on fowls, pigeons, sparrows, guinea pigs, and rabbits to note the effect of this grain upon them. There was but one positive result—that of a rabbit which was struck by partial paralysis for a few days, but soon recovered.

6. Pathological specimens were examined for diagnosis in 130 cases of diseases of man and in 61 of those of animals. Among the diseases diagnosed were spirillum fever, malarial and enteric fevers, anthrax, fibro-sarcoma, tuberculosis, diphtheria, hydrophobia, and Malta fever.

Since the foundation of the Plague Research Laboratory in October, 1896, 45 medical officers have served there for varying lengths of time and contributed to the work done there.

The above facts have been compiled from the latest report of the laboratory, issued by Prof. W. M. Haffkine, on April 31, 1904.

## ITALY.

### *Reports from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Dysentery at Rome.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, August 1 and 8, as follows: During the week ended July 30, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

| Date. | Name of ship. | Destination. | Steerage passengers inspected and passed. | Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed. | Pieces of baggage disinfected. | Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 26 | Prinz Adalbert | New York | 579 | 190 | 750 | 24 |
| 28 | Nord America | do | 290 | 75 | 450 | 7 |

### *Dysentery at Rome.*

At Rome there is a light epidemic of dysentery among the troops in garrison in the Castello Sant'Angelo, the huge cylindrical tomb, now a fortress, so conspicuous and celebrated as a monument of ancient Roman times. Cases of the disease have also occurred in the Via di San Francesco a Ripa, which extends on the right bank of the Tiber toward the Trastevere, a section of Rome inhabited almost exclusively by working people. The laboring class of this section differs in many respects from other citizens of Rome. They claim to be the most direct descendants of the ancient Romans. Cases of dysentery, not usually of a grave character, occur almost every summer in this part of the city. The prevalence of the disease is, at present, on the decrease. The largest number of cases occurred between June 15 and